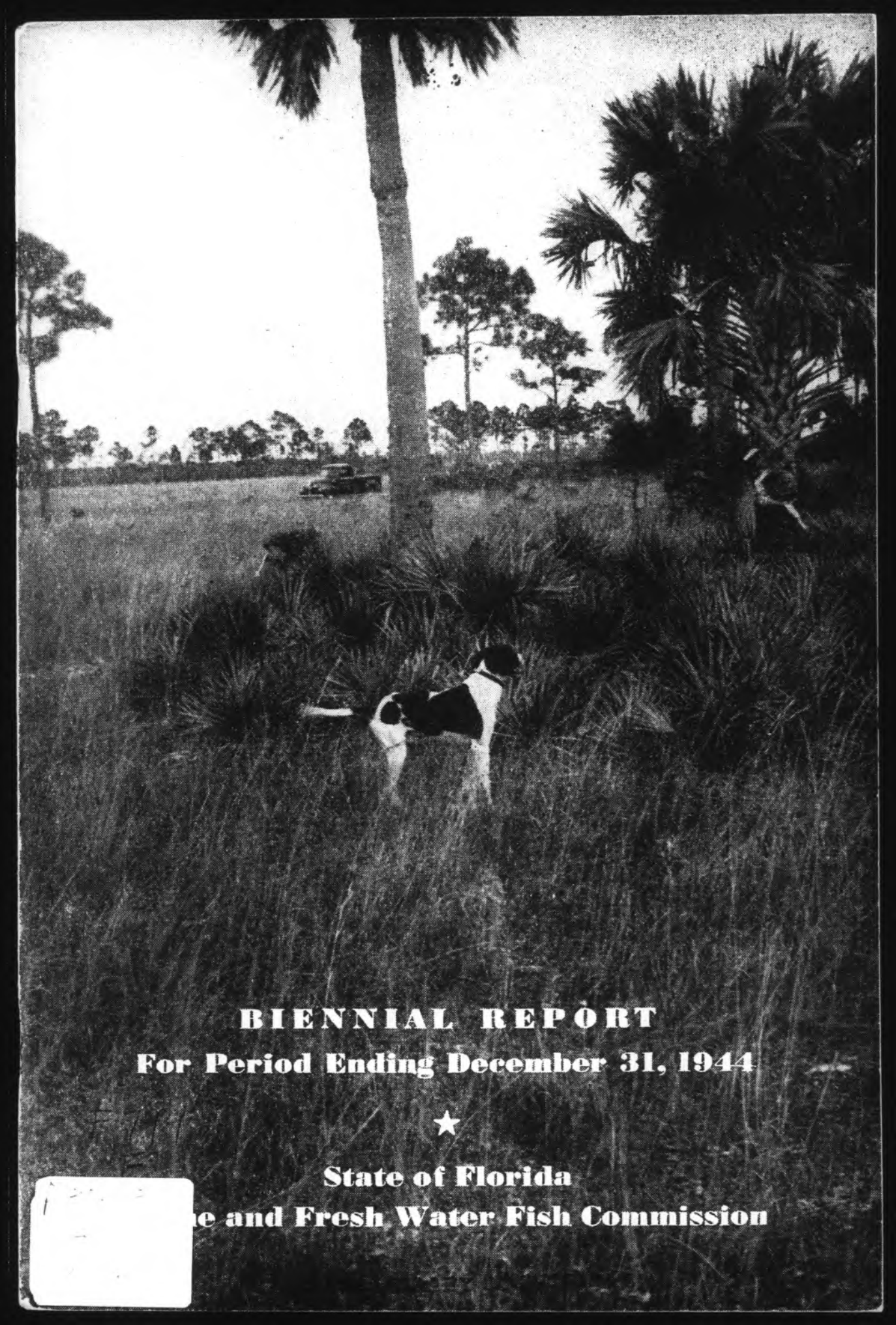


BIENNIAL REPORT

For Period Ending December 31, 1944

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State of Florida

...e and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Biennial Report

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

of the

STATE OF FLORIDA

BIENNIUM ENDING
December 31, 1944

Submitting Report

Tallahassee, Florida
February 15, 1945

Mr. L. G. Bruce, Chairman
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
State of Florida

Sir:

I am submitting herewith the report of the work of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission of the State of Florida for the conservation of Florida's Wildlife Resources during the biennium closing December 31, 1944.

Respectfully yours,

I. N. Kennedy

I. N. KENNEDY,
Director.

Commission of

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH

STATE OF FLORIDA

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

L. G. Bruce, Bartow; appointed January 7, 1943, until next Senate; confirmed by Senate with term to expire January 6, 1948.

SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lester Varn, Jacksonville; appointed January 7, 1943, until next Senate; confirmed by Senate with term to expire January 4, 1946.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

L. G. Morris, Monticello; appointed January 7, 1943, until next Senate; confirmed by Senate with term to expire January 6, 1947.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

John W. Corbett, Ft. Pierce; appointed January 7, 1943, until next Senate; confirmed by Senate with term to expire January 5, 1945.

FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

John S. Clardy, Ocala; appointed January 25, 1943, until next Senate; confirmed by Senate with term to expire January 24, 1944; reappointed to serve until next Senate.

L. G. BRUCE, Chairman
I. N. KENNEDY, Director
Tallahassee, Florida

OFFICE PERSONNEL

I. N. Kennedy, Director
Alice S. Burr, Secretary
C. R. Phillips, Auditor
Edith Bevan, Stenographer

Letter of Transmittal

Tallahassee, Florida
February 15, 1945

To His Excellency
Millard F. Caldwell
Governor of the State of Florida

Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith the biennial report of work that has been done for the conservation of Florida's wildlife resources, as directed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission during the period closing December 31, 1942.

Respectfully submitted,

L. G. BRUCE
Chairman

Enforcement Personnel

FIRST CONSERVATION DISTRICT

D. F. SMOAK, Chief Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers: G. L. Abbott, H. C. Bigbie, Ira **Brewer,** A. H. Carlton, J. L. Cathcart, J. W. Crum, Roscoe **Godwin,** James S. Goff, H. A. Graham, Elam Murphy, **James T.** Philbin, S. B. Snell, Thomas Stanaland, Leffy L. **Taylor,** Frank Turner, C. E. Watson, C. C. Youmans.

SECOND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ROBERT T. HEAGY, Jr., Chief Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers: J. F. Cauthen, D. D. Conner, G. C. **Hill,** Henry Howell, Fred Kirkland, W. B. Lucas, I. W. **McCall,** J. W. Mikell, Lester Mikell, Richard G. Pittman, **Mark** Read, J. A. Revels, J. W. Simmons, D. H. Smith, **J. J.** Walker, Von Walker.

THIRD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BEN H. COX, Chief Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers: J. M. Atkins, C. P. Bush, **Lothair** Chester, J. J. Cotten, Joe Dykes, Henry B. Foster, **Henry** F. French, J. C. Gerrell, T. L. Griffin, Robert L. **Haire,** J. D. Hopkins, Sam Hunter, J. O. Johnson, Allen **Legrone,** A. D. Livingston, D. D. Miller, H. C. Pelt, T. G. **Steele,** W. L Stelts, J. E. Wiggins.

FOURTH CONSERVATION DISTRICT

EARL J. RICOU, Chief Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers: J. Ray Barnes, Engram Hazellief, **Axel** Jenson, J. S. Lanier, R. R. Merritt, John S. Odom, **Homer** Rhode, Jr., Erwin Winte, Curtis E. Wright.

FIFTH CONSERVATION DISTRICT

C. J. FINLEY, Chief Conservation Officer

Conservation Officers: J. O. Buckles, Grady Cason, **Charlie** Clark, S. C. Collier, H. R. Daugharty, E. M. **Ferrell, Leo** Godwin, D. C. Land, Tom W. Lanier, H. L. Lungren, **Roy J.** Osteen, J. R. Parker, Hatton Perkins, R. Remington, **E. H.** Richey, LeRoy Rooks, Vanness Seckinger, W. C. **Tanner,** L. A. Tindall, George Townsend, J. C. Trice, J. B. **Walker,** Mallory Welch.

Introduction

The 1941 session of the Florida Legislature adopted a Constitutional Amendment creating the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and on November 3, 1942, the voters of Florida ratified this amendment by a large majority.

Under the Constitutional Amendment a five-man Commission was provided, to be appointed by the Governor for five-year staggered terms, one from each Congressional District as existing on January 1, 1941. The Constitutional Amendment provided that from and after January 1, 1943, this five-man Commission should be charged with the management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the birds, game, fur-bearing animals, and fresh water fish of the State of Florida, and the acquisition, establishment, control and management of hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations, and all other property owned or used for such purpose by the State of Florida.

The five men chosen by the Governor to assume this important duty were:

First District—L. G. Bruce of Bartow, appointed January 7, 1943, for a five-year term.

Second District—Lester Varn of Jacksonville, appointed January 5, 1943, for a three-year term.

Third District—L. G. Morris of Monticello, appointed January 7, 1943, for a four-year term.

Fourth District—J. W. Corbett of Fort Pierce, appointed January 7, 1943, for a two-year term.

Fifth District—John S. Clardy of Ocala, appointed January 25, 1943, for a one-year term.

These appointments were all later confirmed by the 1943 Senate.

The members of the Commission receive no compensation for their services. Each Commissioner receives his necessary traveling or other expenses incurred while engaged in the discharge of his official duties, but this expense allowance is limited by law to $600.00 in any one year.

The new Commission held its organization meeting on January 25, 1943, at which time Commissioner L. G. Bruce of the First District was selected as Chairman.

I. N. Kennedy, who had served in the capacity of Executive Secretary under the old Commission, was employed in the capacity of Director.

Among the powers granted to the Commission by the Constitutional Amendment was the power to fix bag limits, fix open and closed seasons on a state-wide, regional or local basis, as it deemed appropriate, to regulate the manner and method of taking, transporting, storing and using birds, game, fur-bearing animals, fresh water fish, reptiles and amphibians and to acquire by purchase, gift, or otherwise, all property necessary, useful, or convenient for the use of the Commission in the exercise of its powers.

Under the Constitutional Amendment, the right to enact license laws and fix penalties for violations of the laws and rules and regulations of the Commission remained a power of the Legislature. The Legislature is also empowered to enact laws in aid of but not inconsistent with the provisions of the Amendment.

Many and varied have been the problems which confronted the new Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, foremost of which was the formulation of Rules and Regulations governing methods of taking, and seasons during which game, fur-bearing animals and fresh water fish may be taken. The Constitutional Amendment failed to provide a method of formulating Rules and Regulations by the Commission, and it was not until after the 1943 session of the Legislature provided the method by passing Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 705, which later became Chapter 21945, Acts of 1943, that any action along this line could be taken by the Commission.

Prior to the enactment and ratification of the Constitutional Amendment, there were on the statute books of Florida 13 general laws dealing with the conservation of wildlife resources and a total of 187 special or local laws on the same subject. The enforcement of these numerous laws had resulted in much confusion in the minds of the sportsmen over the State, especially with regard to seasons and bag limits.

With the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment, some of the general laws and practically all of the special laws were repealed, and the Commission sought to replace them by the adoption of rules and regulations which would relieve the

confusion, and at the same time provide ample protection for Florida's wildlife resources.

With no precedent set for them to follow, it is possible that the Commission has yet much ground to cover before their rules and regulations will be satisfactory in every respect. They are moving forward slowly with only one thought in mind—complete protection for wildlife. It is felt, however, that the sportsmen have been able to follow their favorite sports with much less confusion as to the application of the law under the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment than under the provisions of the numerous laws which had previously been enacted.

During the past two years the Commission has been faced with the responsibility of restocking the areas in Florida in which deer had been slaughtered by the Live Stock Sanitary Board in connection with tick eradication work.

Federal funds allocated to the State under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act were greatly reduced because of war activties, thus making it necessary for the Commission to find some other way for financing its five-year land acquisition project begun in 1941.

The operation of fish hatcheries in the State has become increasingly difficult with the induction into the Armed Services of all able bodied men in draft age. This same thing has occurred among the personnel of our Field Force—the men charged with the enforcement of all laws, rules and regulations governing the protection of our wildlife resources.

To all of this, however, there is a bright side. The Commission had at first felt that the war, with the resulting rationing of gasoline and scarcity of shotgun shells would drastically reduce the revenue upon which the Commission would have to operate. To the contrary, however, our revenue, derived solely from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licnses, together with a few commercial licenses, has continued to increase. This would seem to indicate clearly that even in times of stress, recreation, particularly that derived from hunting and fishing, remains an important factor in the everyday life of the individual. For this reason, if for no other, the Commission is particularly conscious of the responsibility resting on its shoulders.

The detail report which follows covers every phase of the work undertaken by the Commission during the past two years.

LICENSES

Funds for the operation of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission are derived solely from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses together with a small number of commercial licenses. Hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are sold by the several County Judges over the State who receive a small fee authorized by law for the service they render in that connection. Commercial licenses are sold direct from the office of the Commission in Tallahassee.

The only exemptions authorized by law are to children under the age of 15 and to residents over the age of 65, also residents fishing with not more than three poles and lines at any one time in the county of their legal residence are not required to have a license.

Men in the Armed Service stationed in Florida are extended the same privileges as those given residents of the State.

FISHING

Series A—Resident State, Fresh Water	$ 1.25
Series B—Non-Resident State, Fresh Water	5.50
Series C—Non-Resident, 10-Day Continuous Fishing, Fresh Water	2.25

License required to take fresh water fish from St. Johns River, including Doctor's Lake, North to the Florida East Coast Railway Bridge in Duval County, or in the waters of Lake Okeechobee or in that part of Crescent Lake and Dunn's Creek in Putnam County.

License not required of residents to fish non-commercially with three poles and lines in county of legal residence.

Use of more than a single pole and line at any one time anywhere else in the State prohibited.

GAME*

Series I—Resident County Game	$ 1.25
Series J—Resident, Other Than Home County	3.25
Series K—Resident, State	5.50
Series L—Non-Resident, State	25.50
Series M—Non-Resident, 10-Day Continuous	10.50
Series M-1—Non-Resident County, Owners of and paying taxes on 3,000 acres of land	10.50

Series Y—Guide, required for guiding hunting parties. Guides may not take game or carry rifle or shotgun while conducting party. Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee 10.50

Alien Hunting—Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee **50.00**

TRAPPING*

Series N—Resident, County..... $ 3.25

Series O—Non-Resident, County 25.50

Series P—Resident, State..... 25.50

Series Q—Resident of County Other Than Home..... 10.50

Series R—Non-Resident, State..... 100.50

*Report of Game and Fur-bearers taken in **previous season** must be filed with County Judge when applying for hunting or trapping license. Failure to file data on blank form attached to application is cause for refusal of license.

COMMERCIAL LICENSES

(Issued from Office of Commission, Tallahassee)

DEALERS IN ALLIGATOR SKINS AND GREEN OR DRIED FURS (SKINS)

Series S—Resident Local Dealer or Buyer (must not solicit by mail, advertise, travel to buy or employ agents to buy)..... $10.00

Series T-1—Resident State Dealer or Buyer..... 100.00

Series T-2—Agent for Licensed "Resident State Dealer or Buyer" 5.00

FRESH-WATER FISH DEALERS

Series U—Resident Retail. May sell to consumer or dealer. If he takes fish must have also license for boat ..... $ 5.00

Series V—Resident Wholesale, (to sell or ship by half-barrel or in bulk)..... 50.00

Non-Resident or Alien, (to sell to consumer or wholesaler). If holder catches fish must secure license for taking and license for boat..... 50.00

Non-Resident Wholesale, (to sell or ship half-barrel, barrel or bulk)..... 500.00

BOATS FOR HIRE

Series W—Required for each boat rented for hunting, or fishing in fresh waters:

18 feet length	$ 1.50
19-21 feet length	4.00
21-25 feet length	15.00
Over 25 feet length	25.00

COMMERCIAL BOATS

Series X—Resident, fish boat twenty feet long, five foot beam and under	$ 1.00
Ten cents for each additional foot in length of beam.	
Non-Resident, fish boat	10.00

GAME FARM

Series Z—For operating privately owned Game Farms	$ 5.00



Winter Haven Fish Hatchery.

The Commission's Report

Florida's Wildlife Today

It is the belief of the Commission that the game situation throughout the State of Florida remains very satisfactory. A survey made following the close of the 1943-44 hunting season by members of our Field Force indicated that all species of game were holding their own, and that some were showing a decided increase in population, this in the face of the fact that vast areas of Florida have been taken over by the War Department for training bases, and other large areas made into grazing ranges to meet the ever increasing demands of the cattle industry in Florida. There are several contributing factors. First, we have had good seasons during the past two years which have made it possible for the young to reach maturity. Second, the rationing of gasoline and the scarcity of shotgun shells has made it impossible for hunters to go into the woods as often as they would under normal conditions. There has also been a gradual decrease in the number of persons purchasing hunting licenses. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, 66,405 persons purchased hunting licenses in Florida. During the year ending June 30, 1943, this number was reduced to 65,096, and for the year ending June 30, 1944, there was a further reduction to 51,123. Fresh water fishing for which Florida is known the world over is still the main attraction. Even though the number of persons purchasing fishing licenses shows a slight decrease, 80,009 licenses were told during the period ending June 30, 1944. When considering this figure, it must be remembered that under the present license law, residents of Florida may fish with not more than three poles in the county of their legal residence without purchasing a license. Men in the Armed Forces stationed in Florida are considered residents insofar as licenses to hunt and fish are concerned. Fur-bearers, which because of the weather conditions in Florida, do not produce pelts which bring top prices on the fur market, are decidedly on the increase. In addition to this, war conditions, which brought higher prices for furs, has caused greater interest in this wildlife resource. Records show that 1,995 persons purchased trapping licenses during the 1942-43 period.

There follows a brief report on each species of wildlife to be found in Florida.

GAME ANIMALS

We have two game animals in Florida—deer and squirrel.

DEER

Deer, which suffered such a setback when laws passed in 1937, 1939 and 1941 authorized their slaughter by the Live Stock Sanitary Board as a part of its cattle fever ticket eradication program, are now on the increase. The tick eradication work has been completed and a deer restocking program has been started to rebuild the deer population in Florida. The recent survey shows an estimated deer population of 25,202. The areas where restocking is being carried on have been closed to the taking of deer and it is believed that the deer population will show an even greater increase within a short time. Our last available kill report shows a total of 1,293 deer killed.

SQUIRREL

There are two species of squirrel found in Florida, the gray or cat squirrel, and the fox squirrel. The gray squirrel has increased to such a point that they are becoming troublesome in some sections of the State. The Commission is confronted almost daily with requests for permits to destroy squirrel which are damaging personal property, an evidence of the great increase in squirrel population. The fox squirrel, which several years ago was almost extinct in Florida is making a slow comeback. Our survey shows an estimated squirrel population of 683,000. Our last kill report taken for 1942-43 hunting season and covering 40 of the 67 counties in Florida, shows a total of 193,768 squirrel taken by sportsmen.

GAME BIRDS

There are three birds in Florida classified as game birds—quail, wild turkey and marsh hens.

QUAIL

This species of game bird continues to hold the limelight in the eyes of Florida sportsmen. During the 1941-42 hunting season 577,126 quail were killed by Florida hunters according to information contained in reports received from 39 of the 67 counties in the State. In 1942-43, 349,553 quail were reported

killed in 40 of our 67 counties. These figures show quite a contrast when compared with the reported kill in 1939-40 of 677,548 and of 735,690 in 1938-39. The rationing of gasoline and scarcity of shotgun shells is largely responsible for this reduction in the number of quail taken. The game survey reveals an estimated quail population of 730,800 at the close of the 1943-44 hunting season. A good breeding season together with the continued scarcity of shotgun shells in 1944-45 leads the Commission to believe that the present quail population is far in excess of that number.

WILD TURKEY

While Florida does not boast to be one of the leading States in the Union insofar as wild turkey is concerned, Florida does boast, however, to be one of the few remaining States where the pure strain of the bronze wild turkey can still be found. The Commission has felt that reductions in season and bag limits and the complete closing of certain areas over the State to the taking of turkey were far better methods of conserving Florida's turkey population than the importation of other strains of wild turkey. That they have been successful is revealed by the figures shown in our game kill reports. In 1941-42, 1,622 wild turkey were killed. In 1942-43 this number was increased to 3,126. Our game survey shows that we still have an estimated turkey population of 26,643.

Stretching Net for Trapping Quail.



MARSH HENS

Marsh hens are plentiful, especially along the upper East Coast line of the State. The fact that they are hunted by very few, keeps the marsh hen well in the upper bracket as far as population is concerned.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Migratory birds are under the complete control of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any change in population is immediately reflected by changes in seasons and bag limits. The past two years have shown a decided increase in population of migratory birds and the resulting extensions in seasons and bags.

DOVE

During the 1942-43 season when dove were still feeling the effects of the freeze which in January of 1940 killed thousands of them, the season was set in Florida from December 1 to December 30 all over the State. In 1943-44 dove had made sufficient comeback to warrant the U. S. Fish and Wild-

Placing Quail in Shipping Crate.



life Service extending the season from December 1 to January 11. For 1944-45 the season was set from November 20 to January 15, for all of Florida except Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties which were permitted to return to a season from October 1 to October 31. Reports from the field indicate that there are more dove in Florida today than there has been for a number of years back, and sportsmen report being able to take the day's bag practically every time they were hunted. There was a reported kill of 159,379 dove during the 1942-43 hunting season.

DUCK

Duck, which several years ago had been reduced to such a low population as to cause the Fish and Wildlife Service officials to fear they would soon become extinct, have made a remarkable recovery. Due to weather conditions in Florida the Commission had been trying to have the duck season extended into the month of January. For years this has been denied them as being biologically unsound from a conservation

Locating Quail to be Trapped.



standpoint. In 1944-45, the duck population was such that the season in Florida was set from November 2 to January 20, and the day's bag which had been established at 10 was extended to include an addition of 5 singly or in the aggregate of mallards, pintails, or widgeons. 70,917 ducks were reported killed in 1942-43 as compared with 51,115 during the previous year. Florida, because of its late season does not get the benefit of the first flight of duck. It is only during January and February that the duck finally reach this State, and for this reason the Commission hopes that soon Florida will be placed in a zone to itself and the hunting of duck permitted at least through the entire month of January, if not until February 15, the close of our regular hunting season.

GEESE

Geese are on the increase although not in the same proportion as duck. Most of the area in Florida where geese

Deer in Shipping Crates.



were hunted in former years has been taken over by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a migratory game breeding ground and for this reason the hunting of geese is carried on on a very limited scale here. Kill reports for the last two seasons show 477 in 1941-42 and 384 in 1942-43. The same situation applies to geese as to ducks, in that Florida might well be placed in a separate zone which would permit the taking of this bird through January or possibly into February without any harmful effects to the United States conservation program.

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

For the purpose of better protecting the fur-bearing animals which need such protection and removing protection from those species which are considered more or less predators, the Commission has divided Florida fur-bearing animals into two groups. The muskrat, raccoon, beaver, mink and otter are in the group given full protection; the skunk, red and gray fox, bear, opossum, panther, bobcat, civet cat, hare or rabbit, are unprotected and may be taken at any time and in any manner.

A Scene From Bear Creek



MUSKRAT

There are very few muskrat to be found in Florida. Several years ago the Commission purchased from the State of Louisiana some muskrat which were liberated in territory similar to that from which they were taken. Recent investigations show that while some survived, the survival was not in sufficient number to warrant the Commission continuing this effort to increase the muskrat population. Our most recent take record for this fur-bearer shows only 96, taken during the year 1942-43.

RACCOON

This animal is decidedly on the increase in Florida. Their numbers have become so great in some sections of the State that the Commission has been forced to grant permission for their destruction in order to avoid damage to personal property. In the citrus section, raccoon have been known to make deep inroads into the citrus crops. This is the most popular of our fur-bearers, since they are to be found in numbers that it makes it profitable for trappers to take them in spite of the fact that Florida pelts do not bring such high prices.

MINK AND BEAVER

These animals are not found in sufficient numbers in Florida for the Commission to be able to determine even approximately what the population is. They are so scattered that it is not often that they can be taken at all. When they are taken, the price of the pelt is quite a reward to the fortunate trapper. It is hoped that their number will increase.

Deer Woods in Choctawahatchee National Forest (Eglin Field Military Reservation)



OTTER

The taking of otter in Florida was prohibited entirely until several years ago. They have returned in sufficient numbers for the Commission to feel that they might again be taken without endangering the supply. Their pelts are considered more valuable than that of the raccoon. Recent surveys indicate that their number is still on the increase in Florida in spite of the fact that they are being taken in ever increasing numbers.

ALLIGATOR

The alligator, which until recent years, was considered more of an attraction to the tourists than an attraction to business, came into its own with the beginning of the war. The use of leather was greatly restricted for civilian use at that time, and the attention of the manufacturers turned to the alligator as a source of supply to replace the shortage of leather. The increase in price in alligator hides was tremendous and it became evident that something would have to be done to protect them or they would soon be extinct. With this in mind, and under the powers granted by the Constitutional Amendment, the Commission closed entirely eighteen counties in the southern portion of the State; then made it unlawful to take or sell alligators less than four feet in length; provided a state-wide closed season during which alligators could not be taken; prohibited possession of alligators, their hides, teeth or eggs during such closed season. It is hoped that with these restrictions, alligators will be able to return to something approximating their former number. It is also hoped

Trail Through Deer Woods, Choctawhatchee National Forest



that the Legislature will see fit to enact some additional laws giving further protection to the alligator and the alligator industry in Florida. These should include a license for those who trap or take alligators, a special license for dealers in alligator hides and some provision for alligator farms where alligators are raised in captivity.

FRESH WATER FISH

Fresh water fishing in Florida has long been a world renowned attraction. Principal species of fresh water fish to be found in this State are the large mouth black bass, which grows to such a size in Florida that it became necessary to place Florida in a group by itself in fishing contests carried on over the country, speckled perch or crappie, red breast bream, warmouth perch, bluegill or copperhead, and the stumpknocker. These fish are to be found wherever fresh water is found, the number and size depending on the amount of food available in the waters. It is very seldom that a sportsman goes fishing and is not rewarded with an ample catch. Except for black bass, on which a closed season on fresh water fish was necessary to keep up the supply, fresh water fish may be taken the year round in Florida.

The Commission operates three fish hatcheries and the Federal Government one hatchery from which large liberations are made each year. This practice, together with a strict observance of bag limits set for each species should assure Florida remaining in the forefront insofar as fresh water fish is concerned.

Wewahitchka Fish Hatchery.



In Memoriam

THIS space is dedicated to those Conservation Officers of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission whose deaths occurred during the past two years. In recognition of their years of service to the conservation of their State's wildlife, tribute is hereby paid:

J. J. Clinton, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

W. C. Jones, Holt, Florida.

The Commission's Activities

The activities of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission did not change with the passage and approval of the Constitutional Amendment. The Commission was simply given broader powers in matters of conservation in that they were authorized to establish seasons and bag limits when and if they were needed without having to wait until the Legislature could meet to take the necessary action. This power, to some extent, served to do away with the confusion which had resulted from the enforcement of special acts which were passed by the Legislature to take care of a particular condition in a particular county within the State.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

At the present time there are employed in the field 90 Conservation Officers, serving under the direct supervision of 5 Chief Conservation Officers. These men are charged with the responsibility of enforcing laws passed by the Legislature for the conservation of wildlife resources and also the Rules and Regulations of the Commission, authorized under the Amendment.

While law enforcement is a Conservation Officer's chief duty ,it is not his only duty. Conservation Officers represent the Commission in their particular locality before local sportsmen's organizations and educational institutions. They also are called upon to do salvage work when climatic or other conditions make it necessary to save fish or wildlife from destruction. Theirs is a twenty-four hour a day job, three hundred and sixty-five days in the year.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The major activity of the Commission is that of law enforcement. This work is carried on by the Chief Conservation Officers and Conservation officers who make up the Commission's Field Force.

When arrests are made for a violation of the fish and game laws or rules and regulations of the Commission, the Conservation Officer making the arrest is allowed the same fee as

that allowed Sheriffs. Mileage for transporting the violator is allowed and included in the court cost. Any fine resulting from a conviction goes to the County where the arrest is made. The arresting fee and court cost is paid to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. During the last two years, the Commission has collected $10,339.88 from this source.

ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS

During the biennium covered by this report, Conservation Officers employed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission made a total of 1,270 arrests resulting in 1,095 convictions and 140 acquitals. Thirty-five cases are still pending. With but very few exceptions, all cases for violations of the game and fish laws and rules and regulations are tried in the County Judge's Court. The cooperation given by these County Officials has been most gratifying to the Commission and has been the cause for much greater respect of conservation laws by the general public.

You will note from the tabulation which follows that "Hunting without a license", "Fishing without a license", and "Trapping without a license" are the cause of more than one-third of the total number of arrests. The next highest number of arrests were made for "Possession of undersize fish." "Taking bass in closed season" and "Netting in the fresh waters" brought the next in number for fishing violations. "Taking game in closed season" caused the arrest of 91 persons during the past two years, while "Hunting with unplugged gun" and "Hunting on closed day" followed with 40 and 35.

Clearing Lake Maggiore in Pinellas County.



The tabulation of arrests by counties is also very interesting. 22 counties show a conviction for every arrest made during the past two years while 6 counties had no arrests for game law violations.

FISH AND FISHING

Fishing without license	386
Possession of undersize fish	140
Taking bass in closed season	72
Netting in fresh water	66
Exceeding bag limit on fish	27
Fishing closed waters	22
Fishing with more than one pole	18
Possession of cast nets and traps	15
Dynamiting fish	13
Taking fish with gig	10
Taking fish with wire trap	8
Renting boats without license	8
Selling fish without license	7
Fishing with improper license	6
Selling black bass	5
Fishing with bream for bait	4
Fishing with cast net	3
Selling fresh water fish in closed county	2
Fish dealer in possession of black bass	2
Fishing with goard	1
	815

GAME AND HUNTING

Hunting without license	102
Taking game during closed season	91
Hunting with unplugged gun	40
Hunting on closed day	35
Possession of gun and dog in breeding ground	33
Hunting during closed season	29
Taking doe deer	17
Taking dove in closed season	15
Possession of firearms in National Forest	12
Hunting in breeding ground	7
Taking deer at night with light	6
Possession of deer with sex identification removed	6
Exceeding bag limit on game	5
Shooting on Tamiami Trail	5
Hunting deer with light	4
Taking duck during closed season	4
Tapping quail	3

Shooting coot with motor boat	3
Shooting quail on ground	2
Shooting dove after sunset	2
Hunting over baited area	2
Taking marsh hens from motor boat	2
Killing non-game birds	2
Hunting without permit in National Forest	1
Exceeding bag limit on deer	1
	430

TRAPPING

Trapping without license	8
Taking and possession of hides in closed season	6
Taking alligator in closed season	4
Trapping during closed season	4
Illegal setting of traps	2
Trapping in breeding ground	1
	25

ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS FOR 1943 AND 1944

County	Arrests	Convictions	Acquittals	Pending
Alachua	35	30	5	.....
Baker	11	9	1	1
Bay	5	3	2	.....
Bradford				
Brevard	10	9	1	.....
Broward	4	3	.....	1
Calhoun	28	22	5	1
Charlotte	19	18	1	.....
Citrus	14	14	.....	.....
Clay	4	4	.....	.....
Collier				
Columbia	7	7	.....	.....
Dade	33	32	1	.....
DeSoto	3	3	.....	.....
Dixie	14	9	5	.....
Duval	12	5	5	2
Escambia	9	8	1	.....
Flagler	5	5	.....	.....
Franklin	2	2	.....	.....
Gadsden	10	10	.....	.....
Gilchrist	15	15	.....	.....
Glades	42	40	1	1
Gulf	65	53	12	.....
Hamilton	14	14	.....	.....

County	Arrests	Convictions	Acquittals	Pending
Hardee	7	5	2	.....
Hendry	27	26	1	.....
Hernando	35	29	5	1
Highlands	15	15	.....	.....
Hillsborough	7	7	.....	.....
Holmes	4	3	.....	1
Indian River	4	4	.....	.....
Jackson	82	64	15	3
Jefferson	23	6	10	7
Lafayette	18	16	2	.....
Lake	47	45	2	.....
Lee	14	14	.....	.....
Leon	23	22	.....	1
Levy	18	15	2	1
Liberty	10	10	.....	.....
Madison	15	13	2	.....
Manatee				
Marion	30	29	1	.....
Martin	10	9	1	.....
Monroe				
Nassau	4	4	.....	.....
Okaloosa	43	23	14	6
Okeechobee	5	3	2	.....
Orange	23	19	3	1
Osceola	1	1	.....	.....
Palm Beach	10	9	1	.....
Pasco	26	26	.....	.....
Pinellas	9	9	.....	.....
Polk	107	96	10	1
Putnam	3	3	.....	.....
St. Johns	58	55	3	.....
St. Lucie				
Santa Rosa	23	23	.....	.....
Sarasota	26	25	1	.....
Seminole	12	11	1	.....
Sumter	8	8	.....	.....
Suwannee	21	9	12	.....
Taylor	13	12	.....	1
Union				
Volusia	19	19	.....	.....
Wakulla	40	33	2	5
Walton	36	29	6	1
Washington	33	31	2	1
Total	1270	1095	140	35

RESTOCKING

Until just recently, the Commission's program of restocking has been mainly with quail and fresh water fish. Some experiments were carried on with wild guineas purchased from Cuba, and some chukars were purchased and liberated in Florida in an effort to propagate them here. These efforts met with little or no success. Since Florida is one of the few remaining states where the pure strain of the bronze wild turkey is still found, the Commission feels that any effort to restock with turkeys brought into Florida might result in the loss of this pure strain. For this reason it was considered better to give proper protection to those turkeys remaining in the State rather than import them. A strict observation of the season and bag limit on turkey should take care of the situation. Following the killing of deer by the State Live Stock Sanitary Board in connection with tick eradication work, it became necessary for the Commission to broaden its restocking program to include deer.

GAME SANCTUARIES, REFUGES, RESERVATIONS

Under the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission the following definitions have been given to areas closed by order of the Commission:

Sanctuary—An area within which hunting, fishing and trapping is prohibited for an indefinite period of time.

Refuge—An area within which hunting, and/or fishing, and/or trapping is prohibited for an indefinite period of time.

Reservation—An area within which hunting, and/or fishing, and/or trapping is prohibited for a term of years set by the Commission.

One of the Fish Ponds at Holt Hatchery.



At the present time, the Commission has 103 of these closed areas in the State, 2 Sanctuaries, 39 Refuges and 62 Reservations.

Within these closed areas Conservation Officers are continually at work removing predators in an effort to protect the wildlife which propagates there under natural conditions and under full protection. During a six months period, one of our officers reported the killing of 124 fox, 9 wildcats and 11 skunks.

Trapped Quail.



In areas where hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited, it is a violation of the law to be found there with gun, fishing tackle or any device which might be used for trapping. Dogs are also prohibited within the closed areas. Quite a number of arrests were made on these charges during the past two years.

These closed areas are all posted and it is a violation of the rules and regulations to remove or deface any of the posters.

QUAIL RESTOCKING

Following the close of the hunting season each year Conservation Officers go into the closed areas over the State and trap quail. This is necessary in order to break up the covies of birds which have not been hunted. Several of the birds are liberated where they are trapped, in order to leave sufficient stock for next year's breeding. The others are liberated in pairs in open territory where they propagate and furnish hunting for the next open season. In this manner 14,263 quail were trapped during the past two years thus furnishing 7,131 covies of quail for the hunters to shoot during the open hunting season in addition to those which were already in the open territory over the State.

The Commission at one time operated a quail hatchery in connection with the Game Farm at Holt, Florida, but this has had to be discontinued due to inability to secure proper feed during war times. It is possible that operation of this hatchery

Deer Corral at Holt Hatchery.



will be resumed when the war is over. Quail hatched at the Game Farm were liberated in pairs in closed areas over the State where they were left to propagate naturally for a period of time before being trapped for liberation in open territory.

FISH HATCHERIES

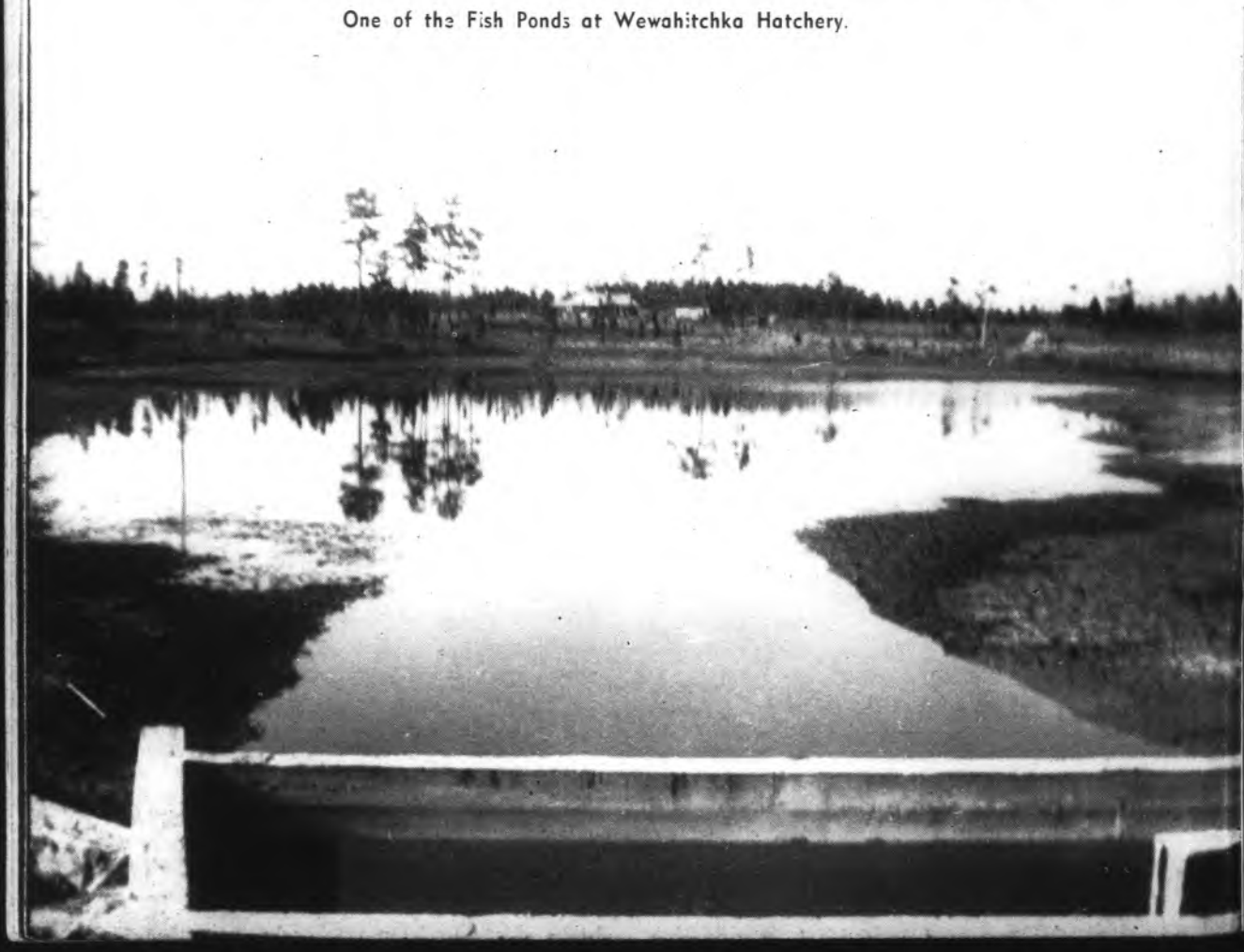
The Commission is operating three fish hatcheries, one at Eagle Lake near Winter Haven, Florida, one at Holt, Florida, and one at Wewahitchka, Florida. One Federal Hatchery, located at Welaka, Florida, is also in operation.

From the hatcheries at Eagle Lake, Holt and Welaka a total of 7,120,081 fingerling fish have found their way into Florida fresh waters. Fish from the Wewahitchka Hatchery are turned into the Dead Lakes in Gulf and Calhoun Counties.

The following tabulation will show a breakdown of fish distributions from the three hatcheries:

	1942-43		1943-44	
	Bass	Bream	Bass	Bream
Winter Haven	308,000		326,500	
Holt		2,236,000		3,929,000
Welaka		214,631	58,435	47,605

One of the Fish Ponds at Wewahitchka Hatchery.



DEER RESTOCKING

During 1937, 1939 and 1941 local laws were passed by the Florida Legislature which provided for the slaughter of deer by the Live Stock Sanitary Board in connection with tick eradication work. These local laws applied to Orange, Osceola, Highlands, Glades, Hendry and Collier Counties. The killing of these deer has made it necessary that the Commission restock these counties, when they have been declared to be tick free.

The 1941 session of the Legislature appropriated the sum of $50,000.00 to be used for deer restocking in the areas where deer had been killed in tick eradication work. The 1943 session of the Legislature made a similar appropriation. This money was to be expended by the Live Stock Sanitary Board in cooperation with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Deer restocking has been carried on through two channels—

Deer Taken in Ocala National Forest



the live trapping of deer from Federal-owned lands and the purchase of deer through commercial agencies.

Tick eradication work is complete in Orange, Osceola, Glades and Highlands Counties and the restocking work is well underway in these counties. The work in Collier and Hendry Counties is complete but the Live Stock Sanitary Board has not yet authorized the starting of restocking.

Finding Virginia White Tail deer which may be purchased is the big problem. To date the Commission has been successful in locating and bringing into Florida 440 deer to be used to replace the deer which were killed.

In addition to the appropriation referred to, the laws providing for the slaughter of deer in Collier and Hendry County also made provision for a deer restocking fund. The Hendry County law provided for the payment by the Live Stock Sanitary Board to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Liberated Deer.



of $25.00 for each deer killed. This has resulted in the sum of $4,575.00, which money will be used to restock deer in Henry County.

The Collier County law provided for a special $5.00 license in addition to the regular hunting license. This has resulted in the sum of $3,680.00 which will be used in Collier County.

The Commission also has a deer corral in connection with the Game Farm at Holt, Florida, which contains at the present time an estimated herd of 60 deer.



Garfish—One of of Our Worst Predators

LAKE AND STREAM IMPROVEMENT

The Commission is constantly confronted with the necessity of clearing lakes and streams of various predatory or rough fish. This is done by use of seines operated by members of our field force or by persons under contract with the Commission. During these operations rough fish are taken out of the waters while all game fish caught in the seines are immediately returned to the waters.

The garfish, which is our only true predatory fish, presents our biggest problem. The Commission is at present trying to work out some satisfactory method of destroying this predator. This will also be included in the Commission's postwar program. The water hyacinth which is fast covering numerous bodies of fresh water in Florida is another problem as yet unsolved by the Commission. Any method yet tried has proven so expensive that it is prohibitive. Experiments are still being made and it is hoped that a solution to this problem will soon be provided. This will also be included in the Commission's postwar program.

In 1943 and 1944 water improvement work has been carried on in Lake Trafford in Collier County, Lake Rosalee in Polk County and in Lake Maggiore in Pinellas County. The problem of securing labor with which to carry on this phase of the Commission's activity has been the main thing confronting the Commission. This has greatly limited the amount of water clearance work which the Commission has been able to do during the past two years.

COOPERATION

Since there are several departments of the State's Government concerned with the conservation of Florida's natural resources, it is to be expected that the program carried on by each of these departments will eventually come in contact with the programs being followed by the others. Cooperation between these various State Agencies is absolutely essential if any of the programs are to be successful. The following paragraphs will touch briefly on the subject of cooperation with the other conservation agencies.

STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION

Under a plan started more than two years ago whereby Conservation Agents employed by the State Board of Conservation held Honorary Game Warden Commissions from this Department, and Conservation Officers employed by the Commission are issued Honorary Conservation Agent Commissions by the State Board of Conservation, these two State Departments have continued to assist each other in the enforcement of laws relating to fresh and salt water fishing in Florida. It is believed that much good has been accomplished by this cooperative agreement between the two Departments.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Since the St. Marys River forms part of the boundary line between the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, it is almost necessary that the Rules and Regulations which apply to this body of water be the same in both states and that Officers of both States have full authority on either bank of the river. This has been arranged by having Georgia Officers covering the area adjoining the St. Marys River made Honorary Wardens for Florida while Florida Officers hold Honorary Commissions issued by the State of Georgia. It has also been arranged that seasons for taking fresh water fish from this body of water be the same.

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

BIENNIAL REPORT

on Apalachicola, Ocala, and Osceola Wildlife Management Areas

Under the cooperative agreement between the Commission of Game and Fresh Water Fish and the U. S. Forest Service, Wildlife Management Areas were established in the Ocala National Forest, Osceola National Forest and the Apalachicola National Forest. Game Management Plans for the areas stipulated reduced seasons, bag limits, planting of stock and the restocking of lakes and streams with fish from Federal hatcheries. Forest Rangers and Forest Guards in the National Forests have been appointed Honorary Game Wardens with full authority to enforce game and fish laws. Two residents have been constructed by the U. S. Forest Service in the Ocala National Forest for the use of the full time Conservation Officers of the state. One residence on the Osceola National at the Olustee Guard Station has been constructed by the Forest Service for the use of the Conservation Officer in charge. It is planned to build a similar structure in the Apalachicola Management Area when the funds become available.

Beginning with 1938, annual supervised deer hunts have been held on the Ocala National Forest. During the month of December, 1944, 3,804 hunters paid for permits to hunt. This was a record year, not only in attendance but also in the number of deer killed. Four hundred and twenty-eight deer were checked out at the eleven stations operated under the supervision of the district ranger.

Following is table showing some pertinent statistics relative to hunts for 1943 and 1944:

	1943	1944
Number of Permits issued	2847	3805
Number of Deer killed	240	428
Ratio of Deer killed to number of permits	8.4%	11.3%
Number of arrests	1	10
Antler Point Data:		
Spike		128
3-Point		8
4-Point		34
5-Point		18
6-Point		32
7-Point		21
8-Point		79
9-Point		24
10-Point		13
11-Point		5
12-Point		4
13-Point		1
Unspecified		55
Shed		6

Tabulation of Hunters by Conservation Districts for the year 1944:

Conservation District	Key Cities in District	Number of Permits	Percentage of Total
1.	Tampa and Lakeland	737	19.4
2.	Jacksonville and Gainesville	1002	26.3
3.	Tallahassee and Pensacola	37	1.0
4.	Miami and West Palm Beach	74	1.9
5.	Ocala and Orlando	1955	51.4
Totals		3805	100.00

Fur Trapping Record	Apalachicola 1944	Ocala 1944
Fox	61	17
Raccoon	629	65
Opossum	17	21
Skunk	0	0
Wild Cat	28	2
Otter	11	

Six of the deek killed in the 1944 season had already shed their antlers when taken. How the hunters knew them to be

bucks is very much of a mystery. The deer as a rule were only in a fair condition, no doubt due to a total lack of acorns upon which they usually fatten. However, about ten per cent were found to be fat, which would indicate that there are some fattening foods on the Management Area other than mast.

During the 1944 hunt fewer deer were observed with screw-worms than in the previous year's hunt. In fact there was considerable alarm over this condition of the deer in 1943, but 1944 observations showed a reduction in the infection. In 1943 it was not uncommon to find a deer carcass in the area with the only apparent cause being screw-worm. It was feared that the disease would reduce the number of fawns, but at the beginning of the 1944 season there was a larger number of young deer than ever before.

Estimated deer population at the end of 1943 was 9,000. At the end of 1944 the census was approximated at 9,050. Despite disease and the take of hunters, the population remains stable.

There was a vast improvement in law enforcement work in 1944 as compared with 1943. Continued efforts will be made to improve this phase of the management of the Ocala area in future hunts.

CORLAND L. JONES

UNITED STATES ARMY

During the biennium covered by this report, annual hunts have been carried on in Eglin Field Military Reservation, formerly the Choctawhatchee National Forest. These hunts are conducted through cooperation between the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioin and the United States Army. Permits are issued free of charge by the Commanding Officer to persons wishing to avail themselves of the privilege of hunting deer within certain areas in the Reservation. The only restrictions are that hunters must be in possession of a valid hunting license, be checked into the Reservation on arriving and checked out when leaving, and confine their hunting to those areas set out on the permits. All kills must be reported and hunters are also required to observe legal bag limits established by the Commission for other portions of the State.

During 1943 approximately 1,800 permits were issued and 300 deer reported killed within the Reservation. In 1944 approximately 2,500 permits were issued and 425 deer reported killed. These hunts are increasing in popularity as evidenced by the increase in the number of permits issued.

FLORIDA FOREST AND PARK SERVICE

The Commission for several years has cooperated with the State Forest and Park Service in an effort to provide recreational facilities in the several State Forests and Parks. Through this program of cooperation the Commission has established game breeding grounds in the following areas:

O'Leno State Forest in Alachua and Columbia Counties.
Pine Log State Forest in Bay and Washington Counties.
Gold Head Branch State Park in Clay County.
Suwannee River State Park in Hamilton and Suwannee Counties.

Highlands Hammock State Park and Botanical Garden and Arboretum in Highlands County.

Hillsborough River State Park in Hillsborough County.
Florida Caverns State Park in Jackson County.
Torreya State Park in Liberty County.
Myakka River State Park in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
Cary State Forest and Ft. Clinch State Park in Nassau County.

In all of these areas wildlife is given the same protection as that given to other Game Breeding Grounds. Predator control is carried on by members of the Commission's Field Force and wildlife is on an increase. This adds greatly to the value of the areas from a recreational standpoint.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Agency charged with the conservation of fish and migratory birds, has been of great assistance to the Commission in all matters pertaining to conservation of our wildlife resources. On the other hand, the Commission has endeavored to cooperate with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at all times. Conservation Officers of the Commission hold U. S. Game Warden appointments from the Fish and Wildlife Service and are fully qualified to make arrests for violations of Federal Regulations as well as for violations of Commission Regulations. Each year members of our Field Force assist in making a waterfowl inventory which is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service when considering Regulations for taking migratory game birds.

The Commission also permits the use of its tank truck for delivery of fish from the Federal Hatchery located at Welaka, Florida. In return, a great many applications for fish filed

with the Commission are filled with fish coming from the Federal Hatchery. Hunting seasons in Florida are not definitely established until after the Fish and Wildlife Service has set the seasons for taking migratory birds in order that the Commission may set its Regulations to conform with those established by the Federal Government.

MISCELLANEOUS

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Meetings of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission were held more frequently during the past two years than has been customary due to the fact that it was necessary to formulate Rules and Regulations as provided by the Constitutional Amendment. A schedule of meetings held follows:

Date	Place
January 25, 1943	Tallahassee
February 25, 1943	Jacksonville
June 14, 1943	Jacksonville
July 19, 1943	Jacksonville
July 29, 1943	Jacksonville
August 16, 1943	Jacksonville
September 2, 1943	Jacksonville
September 9, 1943	Jacksonville
January 24, 1944	Tallahassee
May 29, 1944	Jacksonville
July 24, 1944	Jacksonville
August 14, 1944	Jacksonville
September 18, 1944	Jacksonville
December 7, 1944	Tallahassee

FEDERAL-AID-TO-WILDLIFE

Because of a reduction in the amount of money included in the budget of the U. S. Department of Interior, Florida's program made possible under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act has been greatly reduced during the past biennium. In 1943 Florida received from this source an allocation of $12,374.48 as compared with $34,290.56 allocated to Florida during 1941. In 1944, this amount was reduced to $11,061.79.

Florida had previously operated the following projects, approved under the Federal-Aid-to-Wildlife program:

2-D Northeast Florida Quail Habitat Restoration.
3-D Northwest Florida Quail Habitat Restoration.

4-L Lake County Land Acquisition.
5-L Marion County Land Acquisition.
6-D Lake County Development.
7-D Marion County Development.
8-L Charlotte County Land Acquisition.
9-D Clark-Ray-Johnson Leased Land Development.
10-D Deer Restocking.

In 1943, Projects 2-D and 3-D were combined and the work carried on by a single project leader. 6-D, 7-D, and 9-D were extended, to be carried out when it was possible to purchase materials necessary to complete these development projects. 8-L, which was a five year land acquisition project, was extended to take care of the purchase of another segment of the land under option to purchase.

In 1944, Projects 6-D, 7-D and 9-D were again extended, since it was still impossible to purchase the necessary materials. 8-L was again extended to take care of the purchase of another segment of land in Charlotte County.

Under the Pittman-Robertson program, the Commission has purchased 640 acres of land in Lake County, 1,280 acres of land in Marion County and when the Charlotte County land acquisition project has been completed, the Commission will own approximately 55,000 acres of land in that County.

HUNTING ACCIDENTS

Included in the reports which come annually to the office of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is the one dealing with accidents due directly to hunting. In 1942-43 there were 26 such accidents reported to the Commission. Of these 6 were fatal, 5 were serious and 15 of a minor nature. During 1943-44, there were 16 accidents reported, of which none were fatal, 5 were serious and 11 minor.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

This phase of the Commission's work has been greatly retarded during the past two years. The Educational Director was called to the Army and publication of the Commission's monthly magazine was discontinued due to conditions brought about by the War. It is hoped that we will be in position to resume publication at an early date.

The rationing of tires and gasoline and congested travel conditions served further to reduce the Commission's participation in other phases of conservation education formerly carried on . No Fair Exhibits have been prepared and no wildlife contests of any kind have been held.

MOVING PICTURES

Calls are continuing to come in for permission to show the Commission's motion picture "Our Heritage." Requests to show the film in other States are not at all uncommon. During the past two years these requests have been received from the States of New York, Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio and Georgia. The picture has been shown twelve times in the State of Illinois. In addition to this, copies of the film are constantly on the move through all parts of Florida where it is shown before schools, sportsmen's organizations, civic clubs and other interested groups.

The Commission plans at a very early date to have another picture made which will help to bring conservation of wildlife even more vividly before the public eye.

NEWS STORIES AND OTHER PUBLICITY

Possibly the most valuable piece of publicity which has ever come to the Commission was a story written by Harold Titus and appearing in the February 1944 issue of Field and Stream. Material for this story was furnished by the Commissiion. Pictures of Florida scenes were furnished by the Commission and also by Dave Newell, Editor of Field and Stream and one time resident of Florida. This article was the means of bringing Florida and the work of the Commission before the eyes of the Nation and the value of such publicity cannot be estimated in any terms.

The Florida Highways magazine has also carried several articles with reference to the work of the Commission and the value of Florida's wildlife resources. In addition to this, the Commission, from time to time, has furnished to the press of the State, articles which tend to keep the public advised as to the work which they are doing.

SOURCE OF REVENUE DURING BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 1944
CLASSIFIED LIST OF LICENSES SOLD

Fishing Licenses—					
Series A—Resident State	$1.00	59,071	$ 59,071.00	64,003	$ 64,003.00
Series B—Non-Resident State	5.00	5,425	27,125.00	7,432	37,160.00
Series C—Non-Resident 10-day Trip	2.00	7,508	15,016.00	8,604	17,208.00
Total		72,004	$101,212.00	80,039	$118,371.00
Hunting Licenses—					
Series I—Resident County	$1.00	44,580	$ 44,580.00	29,034	$ 29,034.00
Series J—Resident County, Other than Home	3.00	457	1,371.00	413	1,239.00
Series K—Resident State	5.00	19,631	98,155.00	21,068	105,340.00
Series L—Non-Resident	25.00	122	3,050.00	164	4,100.00
Series M—Non-Resident, 10-day Trip	10.00	291	2,910.00	418	4,180.00
Series 1-M—Non-Resident 3,000 Acre Owner	10.00	17	170.00	16	160.00
Alien License	50.00				
Total		65,098	$150,236.00	51,113	$144,053.00
Trapping Licenses—					
Series N—Resident	$3.00	1,418	$ 4,254.00	1,928	$ 5,784.00
Series O—Non-Resident County	25.00	1	25.00	1	25.00
Series P—Resident State	25.00	5	125.00	18	450.00
Series Q—Resident Other than Home County	10.00	25	250.00	48	480.00
Total		1,449	$ 4,654.00	1,995	$ 6,739.00
TOTAL LICENSE SALES		138,551	$256,102.00	133,147	$269,163.00

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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STATEMENT OF

Receipts and Disbursements

July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1943

RECEIPTS			
Balance on hand June 30, 1942			$111,541.07
Hunting Licenses	$150,161.00		
Fishing Licenses	96,396.00		
Trapping Licenses	4,597.00		
U. S. Forest Permits	2,052.98	$253,206.98	
COMMERCIAL LICENSES			
Retail Fish Dealers	$ 2,750.00		
Wholesale Fish Dealers	700.00		
Commercial Boat	403.20		
Boat for Hire	2,906.50		
Game Farm Licenses	75.00		
Wholesale Fur Dealers and Agents	1,130.00		
Local Fur Dealers	200.00		
Guide Licenses	210.00	$ 8,374.70	
Court Costs	$ 4,604.46		
Miscellaneous	4,448.26		
Confiscated Boats	228.00		
Confiscated Fish	27.84		
Sale of Old Equipment	350.00		
Confiscated Furs and Hides	107.75		
Previous Year's Licenses	556.00	$ 10,322.31	$271,903.99
Receipts from Pittman-Robertson		29,495.30	29,495.30
			$412,940.36
DISBURSEMENTS			
ADMINISTRATION			
Office Salaries	$ 10,403.10		
Traveling, Executive Secretary	1,112.60		
Traveling, Commissioners	1,051.81		
Miscellaneous	937.64		
Office Supplies	257.36		
Postal, Telephone and Telegraph	954.91		
Printing and Stationery	2,766.18		
Premium on Bonds	40.00	$ 17,523.60	

FIELD EXPENSE			
Salaries, Conservation Officers	$100,449.60		
Traveling, Conservation Officers	78,923.35		
Legal Expense	100.00		
Miscellaneous, Field	2,159.33		
Premium on Compensation Insurance	1,129.33		
Premium on Bonds	495.00		
Equipment Purchased	995.23		
Maintenance of Equipment	998.05		
Rewards Paid	50.00		
Restocking	491.10	$185,790.99	
EDUCATION			
Salaries	$ 300.00		
Miscellaneous	11.86		
Moving Pictures	46.53	358.39	
HATCHERIES			
Blackwater Game Farm and Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 2,775.00		
Labor	890.50		
Supplies	132.48		
Express	2.28		
Feed	388.85		
Fertilizer	66.42		
Gas and Oil	612.25		
Insurance	53.08		
Repairs to Equipment	60.00		
Truck Repairs	716.18		
Restocking	45.00	$ 5,742.04	
Wewahitchka Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 200.00		
Labor	9.00		
Gas and Oil	8.75		
Repairs	166.01	$ 383.76	
Winter Haven Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 3,247.40		
Labor	46.00		
Traveling	234.75		
Land Purchased	875.00		
Improvements	164.80		
Repairs to Equipment	225.00		
Supplies	116.19		

Truck Operation	401.69		
Gas and Oil	546.77		
Insurance on Truck	69.90	$ 5,927.50	$215,726.28
Relief of E. L. Smith (Acts 1939)	600.00		
Pittman-Robertson Expenditures	47,034.15	47,634.15	47,634.15
CASH ACCOUNT			
Balance in State Treasury	$130,798.83		
Balance in Lewis State Bank	23,376.85	154,175.68	
Less County Judges' Credits	20.75		
Less Hendry County Deer Restocking Fund Reserve	4,575.00	4,595.75	149,579.93
			$412,940.36

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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STATEMENT OF

Receipts and Disbursements

July 1, 1943, to June 30, 1944

RECEIPTS			
Balance on hand June 30, 1943			$149,574.93
Hunting Licenses	$143,861.00		
Fishing Licenses	114,683.00		
Trapping	6,727.00	$265,271.00	
U. S. Forest Permits	2,871.62	2,871.62	
COMMERCIAL LICENSES			
Retail Fish Dealers	$ 3,975.00		
Wholesale Fish Dealers	1,200.00		
Commercial Boat	545.60		
Boat for Hire	2,965.00		
Game Farm Licenses	40.00		
Wholesale Fur Dealers and Agents	1,415.00		
Local Fur Dealers	160.00		
Guide Licenses	160.00	10,460.60	
Court Costs	6,945.35		
Miscellaneous	2,255.88		
Confiscated Boats, Nets and Motors	677.00		
Confiscated Fish	81.60		
Sale of Old Equipment	825.00		
Confiscated Furs and Hides	140.75		
Previous Year's Licenses	4,971.00	15,896.58	294,499.80
Receipts from Pittman-Robertson		16,487.79	16,487.79
Refunds		53.91	53.91
			$460,616.43
DISBURSEMENTS			
ADMINISTRATION			
Office Salaries	$ 10,995.02		
Traveling Director	1,394.50		
Traveling Commissioners	885.32		
Miscellaneous	538.25		
Office Supplies	228.52		
Postage, Telephone and Telegraph	1,177.87		
Printing and Stationery	2,725.98		
Premium on Bonds	45.00	$ 17,990.46	

FIELD EXPENSES			
Salaries, Conservation Officers	$ 91,934.73		
Traveling, Conservation Officers	75,352.29		
Premium on Bonds	320.00		
Legal Expense	211.29		
Miscellaneous, Field	3,262.27		
Premium on Compensation Insurance	665.53		
Equipment Purchased	519.50		
Maintenance of Equipment	750.51		
Rewards Paid	200.00		
Restocking	152.95	$173,369.07	
HATCHERIES			
Blackwater Game Farm and Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 2,600.00		
Labor	804.66		
Supplies	32.63		
Express and Telegrams	15.97		
Feed	177.27		
Fertilizer and Seed	169.65		
Gas and Oil	430.69		
Insurance	178.88		
Repairs to Equipment	200.72		
Truck Repairs	324.96	$ 4,935.43	
Wewahitchka Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 480.00		
Supplies	3.75		
Gas and Oil	10.75	494.50	
Winter Haven Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 4,402.50		
Labor	99.00		
Traveling	325.95		
Repairs to Equipment	145.88		
Supplies	139.54		
Truck Operation	246.71		
Gas and Oil	476.94		
Insurance on Truck	70.30	5,906.82	202,696.28
Relief of E .L. Smith (Acts 1939)	600.00		
Relief of J. A. McKeithen (Acts 1941)	812.50		
Pittman-Robertson Expenditures	21,451.22	22,863.72	22,863.72

CASH ACCOUNT

Balance in State Treasury	$237,377.07		
Due from County Judges	2,586.00	239,963.07	
Less Hendry County Deer Restocking Fund Reserve	4,575.00		
Less Cancelled Warrant Account	331.64	4,906.64	235,056.43
			$460,616.43

GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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STATEMENT OF

Receipts and Disbursements

July 1st, 1944 to December 31st, 1944

RECEIPTS			
Balance on hand June 30, 1944			$235,056.43
Hunting Licenses	$186,297.00		
Fishing Licenses	54,244.00		
Trapping	4,221.00	$244,762.00	
U. S. Forest Permits	3,796.34	3,796.34	
COMMERCIAL LICENSES			
Retail Fish Dealers	$ 3,435.00		
Wholesale Fish Dealers	1,550.00		
Commercial Boat	434.20		
Boat for Hire	3,084.00		
Game Farm Licenses	65.00		
Wholesale Fur Dealers and Agents	995.00		
Local Fur Dealers	50.00		
Guide Licenses	130.00	9,743.20	
Court Costs	2,132.38		
Miscellaneous	2,987.25		
Confiscated Boats	422.25		
Confiscated Fish	133.27		
Sale of Old Equipment	595.50		
Confiscated Furs and Hides	4.55		
Previous Year's Licenses	3,892.00	10,167.20	268,468.74
Cancelled Warrant Account	331.64		
Refunds	56.49	388.13	388.13
			$503,913.30
DISBURSEMENTS			
ADMINISTRATION			
Office Salaries	$ 5,626.23		
Traveling Director	638.20		
Traveling Commissioners	694.31		
Miscellaneous	289.33		
Office Supplies	216.82		
Postage, Telephone and Telegraph	733.15		
Printing and Stationery	2,682.81		
Premium on Bonds	35.00	$ 10,915.85	

FIELD EXPENSES

Salaries, Chief Conservation Officers	$ 4,275.00		
Salaries, Conservation Officers	44,983.87		
Traveling, Chief Conservation Officers	5,442.00		
Traveling, Conservation Officers	34,903.46		
Premium on Bonds	245.00		
Legal Advertising	190.23		
Legal Expense	125.00		
Miscellaneous, Field	1,616.98		
Premium on Compensation Insurance	1,367.62		
Equipment Purchased	651.57		
Maintenance of Equipment	587.54		
Rewards Paid	200.00	$ 94,588.27	

HATCHERIES

Blackwater Game Farm and Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 900.00		
Labor	1,066.21		
Supplies	17.78		
Express and Telegrams	8.09		
Feed	107.35		
Fertilizer and Seed	12.00		
Gas and Oil	425.59		
Truck Repairs	745.45	$ 3,282.47	
Wewahitchka Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 240.00		
Labor	16.00		
Supplies	2.75		
Gas and Oil	12.45	$ 271.20	
Winter Haven Hatchery:			
Salaries	$ 1,879.99		
Labor	120.00		
Traveling	192.47		
Supplies	152.83		
Truck Operation	279.81		
Gas and Oil	234.01	2,859.11	111,916.90
Publicity and Education			
Salary	200.00	200.00	200.00
Relief of E. L. Smith (Acts 1939)	300.00		

Pittman-Robertson Expenditures	68,734.41		
Refunds	100.00	69,134.41	69,134.41
CASH ACCOUNT			
Balance in State Treasury	$302,329.43		
Balance in Lewis State Bank	24,923.56	327,252.99	
Less County Judge's Credit	16.00		
Less Hendry County Deer Restocking Fund Reserve	4,575.00	$ 4,591.00	$322,661.99
			$503,913.30

In their Country's Service

- ★ Edward Griffin
- ★ Bill Hendry
- ★ Kelly Parker
- ★ Randolph Saxon
- ★ George T. Sharpe
- ★ James M. Shaw
- ★ Howard K. Stalls

